

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 5/12/10, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jessica French, Jonathan Janik, John Lentz, Andy Machado, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener; missing members: Jean Clark, Steve Kurland.

Visitors Present: none

1. Public Comments. None.
2. Administration.
 - Minutes of 3/10/10 were amended by Mike and approved unanimously.
 - Corey reported that “Senior Citizens Safety Zones” was approved by Town Meeting and now has to go to the State Legislature for approval.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
3. Countdown pedestrian timers at Mass. Ave. and Route 60. Mike reported that a purchase order has been issued for countdown signals, following MUTCD standards. He expects them to be delivered soon. Radar signs have also been ordered for Park Street Extension near Peirce School, and will give info on speed as well as number of vehicles.
4. Mass Ave. and Park Ave. The Gas Company will be opening up the street for repairs and the Town wants to put in detector loops to improve operations with Downing Square improvements at that time.
5. Town Day. Scheduled for September 25. Vote to appropriate \$25.00 for Town Day booth, voted unanimously.
6. Thermoplastic Crosswalks for 2010. Elisabeth, Ed, Howard and Scott reviewed crosswalk list and looked at sites. Top priority locations are those that are in bad shape and in important locations. List approved for submission to Public Works.
7. Eustis Street. Howard needs more information before making a recommendation re. request for traffic calming. Corey will get counts for Howard. Mike will get road grade. Working Group will meet on Traffic Calming policy before June meeting.
8. Brighams Site. Working Group will meet next week to review Traffic Impact Study. Jeff will send TIS to Scott to forward to ABAC.
9. Traffic Supervisors. Elisabeth reported that the Selectmen may be looking for TAC to help choose one high priority site per school, depending what happens with the budget, Town Meeting, and the current school fundraising efforts. Howard suggested that providing only morning supervisors may be option given that the morning peak time has higher pedestrian volumes than afternoons.
10. Stratton School Circulation. There is a proposal to change the one-way direction of Pheasant Street to westbound, which is currently one way eastbound, to make drop off on the side closest to the school doors, and make Mountain one-way westbound. Ed and Annie LaCourt will do public outreach in the neighborhood. Ed to speak with Chief Ryan. Hope to make change before September start of school.
11. New Thompson School. TAC Working Group met with Thompson School Building Committee and principal Sheri Donovan. They are currently gathering data via a questionnaire. There is some funding available to pay for counts to help understand the baseline conditions. Some new programs will be moved there when it reopens, so number of vehicles may increase in future.
12. Other Schools.
 - a. Brackett has a high walk-to-school rate, but a dearth of parent volunteers to help with drop-off. Discussion of progress is on the next PTO agenda.
 - b. Dallin Safe Routes to Schools funded sidewalk installation is awaiting approval of Rights of Way at Town Meeting.
13. Lake Street. Laura reported that as part of the Highway Division’s review of the Mass. Ave. project, they are suggesting changes to Lake Street that would add a lane entering Mass. Ave. If the Town thinks this is desirable we may be able to get additional state and federal funding to do this, since it was suggested by the State. We also could look at the signal at Brooks

- Ave. and how it impacts the Lake/Mass. Ave. intersection. Scott noted that, looking at East Arlington as a whole, a Lake Street improvement might induce commuters to shift to Lake Street from other routes, such as Route 16, and could increase cut through traffic on some local streets. However, a better-functioning Lake Street might lead to less cut-through traffic on other side streets. The heavy pedestrian and cyclist use of the Bikeway may also contribute to back-ups on Lake St. The TAC was interested in supporting a study to see if there is anything that can be done to improve traffic on Lake, but wanted to proceed with caution.
14. Bicycle Safety. Next week is Bike Week, and the bicycle safety brochure will be distributed at the bicycle commuter breakfast near Alewife on Tuesday. ABAC is doing a safety check along the Bikeway in June. Fixing the disconnection of the Bikeway in Arlington Center remains a high priority.
 15. Clean Air and Mobility Program Grant (Rte. 60/Mass. Ave.). Ed and Mike will present project to MPO and answer questions. We should know more about likelihood of funding next month.
 16. Mass. Ave. The Town's consulting engineers, FST, have been working closely with the Highway Division District 4 prior to resubmitting the 25% design plans. A few changes are being proposed and will be presented to the Mass. Ave. Design Review Committee. They include adding a lane to Mass Ave at Bates Road to improve LOS there, and possible changes at Lake Street.
 17. East Arlington Parking. A Working Group made up of Laura, Ed, Corey, Howard, and Steve, along with business owners who have been invited to attend meetings, are working on recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, including shared parking at Hardy School on Friday and Saturday, education for employees about not parking on Mass. Ave., some short term 15 minute parking spaces, and increased enforcement. Recommendations may be ready by the end of June, and will come before TAC for discussion.
 18. Downing Square. CDBG funds were approved for the design. Survey is complete. DPW will soon be choosing a designer.
 19. Bus Shelters. Selectmen gave their support to go ahead and study locations. Clarissa, Laura and Jean will choose locations. Aiming to have a public meeting with proposed locations and MBTA presentation soon thereafter.
 20. Paul Revere Road. Mike is working on getting a survey.
 21. Town News.
 - a. Corey reported on an accident in which a pedestrian was hit by a bus on Mass. Ave. at Highland.
 - b. Mike reported that Mill Lane is open now following culvert work.
 22. Green Line Extension. Rich presented letter of support for Congressman Markey's requested earmark to study extending the Green Line to Route 16/Mystic Valley Parkway. TAC voted to send the letter as written, with cc. To State Reps, Senators, MassDOT and the MBTA.
 23. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

- Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda 5/12/10; 2) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr Re. Stop Sign on High Haith Road at Highland Avenue, dated April 21, 2010; 3) Article 21 [Town Meeting Warrant] Home Rule Legislation/Senior Citizen Safety Zones; 4) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 5/12/10; 5) Project Status, dated 5/12/10; 6) Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 5/12/10; 7) Proposed One Way Traffic Flow Plan for Stratton School showing Sign Placement; 8) Proposed Parking Plan for Stratton School; 9) Clean Air and Mobility Program Presentation—5/13/10; 10) Email from Edward Starr to Steve Kurland et al Re. Draft Items from our 4/29 Meeting (East Arlington Parking Working Group), dated April 29, 2010
- Minutes of 4/14/10
- Draft letter to Congressman Edward Markey, Dated May 14, 2010.
- Draft Plan of Action, TAC Traffic Supervisor Working Group, 12 May 2010.
- Thermoplastic Crosswalk List, 12 May 2010.